



**Northeast
Utilities System**

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May 30, 2008

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station, Second Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

**RE: Western Massachusetts Electric Company Semi-Annual Double Pole Report,
D.T.E./D.P.U. 03-87**

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

Western Massachusetts Electric Company ("WMECO") hereby submits its Semi-Annual Double Pole Report. This report covers the six-month time period from November 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008. Verizon Massachusetts submits the data, which is the basis of the numbers summarized in this report, to the Department of Telecommunications and Cable ("DTC") on behalf of the other pole owners. Enclosed for filing are the original and nine copies of this status report.

In its November 28, 2003 report relative to a plan to eliminate the backlog of double utility poles within the Commonwealth, pursuant to Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2003, Section 110, the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("DTE") required pole owners to submit detailed plans for eliminating the backlog of double poles as soon as reasonably practicable. The DTE has now been reorganized as the Department of Public Utilities ("DPU") and the DTC. WMECO, as a pole owner, filed its plan for eliminating the backlog of double poles on January 27, 2004, and filed its first Semi-Annual Double Pole Report on October 28, 2004. Since then, WMECO has filed its Semi-Annual Double Pole Report every six months as required. The last report was submitted on November 27, 2007. WMECO also provides yearly double pole progress and strategy for pole management in its Annual Reliability Filings. The most recent was filed with the DPU on December 28, 2007.

In the period since its last semi-annual report, WMECO has continued its emphasis on the removal of double poles in the cities and towns that it serves. During the past several months, a large number of poles were added to the PLM system, primarily due to replacement of condemned poles and distribution projects. During the reporting period, a total of 204 poles were removed and 310 were added. WMECO continues to meet with Verizon Massachusetts on a monthly basis to discuss work-related issues, including double poles. WMECO has not had any significant issues involving laggard licensees. Discussions have been held with licensees regarding transfer of their facilities, and the licensees have been cooperative. Since the last

semi-annual report, WMECO also concentrated on completing transfers of its electric facilities from existing and newly set double poles.

WMECO continued the practice of having a contractor remove large quantities of poles that were clear of all attachments, and ready for removal. WMECO intends to continue this practice as a way of being able to remove double poles once all transfers have been completed.

In the management of double poles, WMECO believes the strategy of completing its own transfers and removing all poles that are in a ready to remove status has been the most effective means of reducing the number of double poles within its service territory. While nearly all of the backlog double poles have been removed, WMECO is concerned about the progress in the removal of remaining new double poles. Of the remaining 739 double poles remaining in WMECO's service territory, WMECO has responsibility to remove 60% of those poles, but cannot do so until transfers have been completed by other parties. WMECO has been unsuccessful in obtaining any commitment from the other pole owner to complete transfers in WMECO's service territory. In the past several months, WMECO has noticed there have been numerous occasions when the PLM System was not properly updated. WMECO has shown that once all transfers have been completed, the poles are removed in a relatively short time period. WMECO will aggressively continue to remove double poles once all required transfers have been completed.

The present status of double pole transfers and remediation in WMECO's service territory is shown in the table below:

WMECO Double Pole Status as of May 1, 2008:

WMECO to Shift	Others to Shift	Verizon MA to Shift	Ready to Remove Verizon	Ready to Remove-WMECO	Total Double Poles
28	109	580	2	25	744

WMECO has analyzed the state-wide Double Pole Status Grid and extracted the information for the double poles located within the cities and towns that it serves. A summary of the extracted information is provided in the tables below:

WMECO Double Pole Backlog Summary:

	Backlog Total Poles	Backlog Remaining Poles	Backlog Removed Poles	Backlog % Poles Removed
Totals:	1,138	5	1,133	99.56%

WMECO Double Pole New Pole Summary:

	New Poles at Start	New Poles Added	New Poles Removed	Remaining New Poles > 90 Days	New Poles Remaining at End
Totals:	633	310	204	676	739

WMECO Double Pole Summary Statistics:

	Backlog Remaining Poles	New Poles Remaining at End	Total Poles Remaining
Totals:	5	739	744

In conclusion, the PLM System is proving to be an effective tool in managing and facilitating double pole removal. WMECO is committed to work toward the elimination of the double pole backlog in the municipalities that it serves. Please contact me or John Tulloch ((413) 499-9051, or email: tullojs@nu.com) should you have any questions in regard to this filing.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Donald M. Bishop
Manager, Regulatory Policy - Massachusetts